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LETTER DATED 4 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PORTUGAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to draw your attention to the statement issued on 25 January 2000 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Republic of the Congo (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Antonio MONTEIRO
Permanent Representative of Portugal
to the United Nations

Annex

[Original: English and French]

Statement issued on 25 January 2000 by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Republic of the Congo

The European Union took note of the agreements signed by representatives of the Army and the Militias, respectively in Pointe Noire on 16 November 1999 and in Brazzaville on 29 December 1999, and welcomes the appointment of President Bongo of Gabon as mediator for an all-inclusive dialogue.

Both of those agreements represent significant steps forward on the path towards pacification and national reconciliation in the Republic of Congo, whose people are still suffering the effects of a prolonged and disruptive armed conflict.

The European Union therefore calls upon all Congolese parties to renounce violence and firmly commit themselves to the opening of an all-inclusive national dialogue in order to:

Reach a comprehensive and lasting end to hostilities;

Lead to full respect of human rights, the rule of law and the restoration of democracy through the holding of free and fair elections.

If progress takes shape towards establishing free, transparent and pluralistic elections, the European Union may consider assistance, beyond emergency humanitarian aid, to contribute to the restoration of peace, democracy and development in Congo-Brazzaville.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the countries of the European Free Trade Association members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.